II. The butterfly element in society, which demands that young men and young women shall live and dress more luxuriously than their means will permit, and hence the firm belief that matrimony is the prerogative of the wealthy few.

III. The partiality of the world for men, and consequent double standard of morality that presents striking unfairness in regard to the misguided or vicious conduct of women.

IV. The peculiar commercial cupidity which demands that dependent women shall work for almost nothing and support themselves on such salaries. The responsibility which is daily assumed by the proprietors of wealthy commercial enterprises is something to make one reflect upon man's inhumanity to woman.

V. Diseased conditions and hereditary traits in women.

It will be perceived that vice needs a new classification. And when all kinds of viciousness has assumed in the public mind its own local habitation and name, the word *blame* will gradually fall into disuse, and the criminal will become the joint ward of the doctor, the philanthropist, and the financier. L. F. B.

NUTRITION IN HYSTERIA.

Two physician's in Charcot's clinic, Gilles De La Tourrette and Cathelineau, have undertaken the study of this subject. Their observations appear in the "Progrès Médical." In spite of Empereur's dictum that "mal-assimilation does not occur in hysteria," the authors undertake to show, by varied and careful research, how constant is impaired nutrition and how rapid the change for the better as the patient recovers from the attack. Weight increases in the same ratio that it was lost. Excretions are greatly diminished. Were it not for this fact the loss in weight would probably be even greater than it is. L. F. B.

URIC ACID AND PERSONAL PECULIARITY.

Dr. George Harley, in "Lancet," April 5, 1890, states—while correcting a typographical error, in the discussion following Sir Wm. Roberts' paper, which transforms "birds" into "bears"—that he has endeavored to show the fallacy of supposing that diet exercises a greater influence on the production and excretion of uric acid by the human body than constitutional peculiarity. Within the first month after its birth, the human infant excretes a proportionally larger amount of hippuric than of uric acid. The sucking calf's urine contains no hippuric acid at all. Both are milk-fed, and the slight difference in their mother's milk cannot be said to be sufficient to account for this difference in the nature of their urinary crystallizable excrementitious acid ducts. Sugar is supposed to augment the formation of uric acid in the human body. Yet experiment proves that until the digestive functions become seriously deranged there is no evidence of increase of uric acid in the urine. Under certain pathological conditions men have been known, even when many days on a spare diet, to eliminate enormous quantities of uric acid. Muscular exercise increases and hot weather diminishes the excretion of uric acid by the urine. Nevertheless, the following biological facts totally upset the validity of the theory based upon these data. The slow-breathing, sluggish-moving, carnivorous serpent, and the quick-breathing, muscularly active grain-eating bird, and the more strictly vegetarian insect—as the bee and the butterfly—all pass uric acic in their solid urines. And that, too, as far as has yet been ascertained, in much about the same relative proportions to their bodily weight. Hence, the argument that constitutional peculiarity, both as regards species and individuals, is a much more important factor in the production of uric acid in the animal economy than mere diet. L. F. B.

FORCIBLE FLEXION OF THE BODY IN LOCOMOTOR ATAXIA.

The "Canadian Practitioner," January 1, 1890, quoting from another journal, states that at the thirteenth Congress of the Italian Medical Association held at Padua, Dr. P. Bonuzzi communicated the results of a number of experiments made on the cadaver, with the view of ascertaining the physical effects produced on the spinal cord by suspension. During suspension the spinal cord is displaced upward from three to four millimetres, this resulting from slight increase in the distance between the vertebræ owing to relaxation of the muscles and stretching of the vertebral ligaments. The roots of the spinal nerves, with the exception of the cauda equina, do not seem to be appreciably stretched, although they are slightly altered in position. The tension of the cerebro-spinal fluid is increased. During suspension the vertebral column is apparently lengthened